


JANUARY 1950

 BIBLE
SOCIETY

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PACIFIC SCHOOL
OF RELIGION

Record

LEVEL
ONE



He is blind but he is able to enjoy the Scriptures on Talking Book records. The whole Bible is on 169 double-faced records which are a blessing to those who cannot read with their fingertips. The American Bible Society distributes thousands of these records to the blind annually

"We Waited for You a Hundred Years!"

Like the Kingdom of Heaven, the American Bible Society brings forth from its treasures Things Old and Things New. Here is a story of Things Old

BY GILBERT DARLINGTON

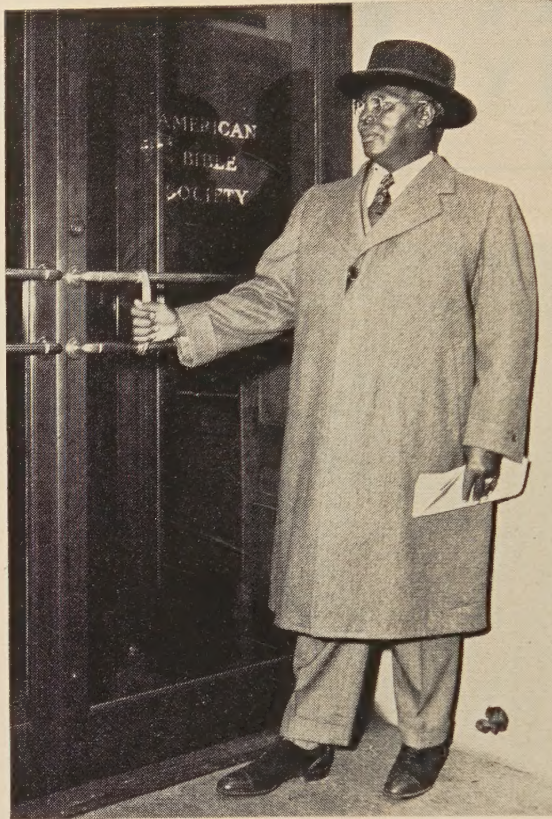
THE Protestant Episcopal General Convention which met in San Francisco last September brought delegates from all quarters of the globe. Among them was Justice E. Himie Shannon of the Superior Court of Liberia.

In my address to the Convention concerning the work of the American Bible Society I mentioned that some part of the Scriptures had been translated and published in 1,108 languages. This remark awakened great hopes in the heart of Justice Shannon. I had not been back at my desk in the Bible House but a few days, before the Justice came to see me. Were there any Scriptures available in his native tongue—Grebo—spoken in that part of Liberia lying just west of Cape Palmas?

I was happy to tell Justice Shannon that there were, and that we had been waiting for over a hundred years to dispose of some of these, for which the demand for some reason had completely disappeared over eighty years ago.

It was in 1848 that the Reverend John E. Payne, who later became the first Bishop of the Missionary District of Liberia, translated the Gospels and several other books into the Grebo tongue. Bishop Shannon was of course delighted to learn this. He stated that although the present-day Grebo language differs in some respects from that of a century ago, such books as the Society had on hand would still fill a big need.

When I consulted the stock reports of our New York Depository I found that there were 2,431 volumes there in the Grebo: 616 of the Gospel of Luke, published in 1848; 566 of Genesis, published in 1850; 170 of the Book of Acts, published in 1851; 908 of the Epistle to the Romans, published in 1866; and 171



Justice Shannon arrives at the Bible House

of the Gospel of Matthew, bound with First Corinthians, published in 1868.

Justice Shannon made a second visit to the Bible House while in New York on his way back to his own country. He said he would always remember the dates of those two visits, for during the first one the sirens blew and the motorcade came by escorting Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, on his official visit to New York City. On the Justice's second visit one week later, the sirens whistled again, and again the motorcade went by, this time escorting President Truman to the new site of the United Nations—just a few blocks from the Bible House—where he was to lay the corner stone of the first of the buildings there. This, the Justice remarked, was significant of the influence

of the Bible, which by its universal appeal had done so much to promote friendship among the nations.

Justice Shannon took with him seven samples of the Books, one for each of the seven churches in Liberia that use the Grebo language. He was sure they would wish to purchase additional copies.

The Society has agreed to donate all of these Grebo Scriptures to Justice Shannon for distribution among the churches and people of Liberia. He, on his part, was sure that the Liberian churches receiving these books would be only too happy to take offerings for the Society's work in gratitude for the Scriptures translated so long ago by Bishop John E. Payne and published and carried by the American Bible Society among its treasures of the Holy Scriptures, for from eighty to a hundred years.

Bible Society Record

A JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE WIDER DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF THE
HOLY SCRIPTURES

VOLUME 95 JANUARY · 1950 NUMBER 1

The Miracle of Literature

THIS little magazine has been talking about the Bible for almost a hundred years and is being read by more people today than ever before.

What other book than the Bible would people want to hear about so continuously? There is none, for the Bible outdistances every other book. It is so much more than a book. It is an institution, honored the world around. It is the miracle of literature.

Hold on tight now, while we race through the evidence. Of course it is woefully incomplete:

The Bible is the oldest and the longest book in common use. It is the only book, either ancient or modern, which is familiar to and honored by men of every nation. It is continuously the best seller, not only in America but in many other lands.

The Bible has been more widely translated than any other book. In its entirety it may now be read in 188 languages; besides that, it has appeared in some substantial part in almost a thousand more tongues. No other book even faintly approximates this record.

There is more interest in the Bible today than at any earlier time in its long history. For the past forty years missionaries have been translating it into new languages at the rate of one every thirty-two days!

Great presses are turning the Scriptures out continuously on every continent, and yet there is always a dearth of Bibles in many areas.

The Bible seems alien to no people who read it in their own tongue. They feel it belongs to them peculiarly, just as we feel about our English Bible. This is so because the Bible answers in such unforgettable fashion the deepest questions of the human heart.

Consider the influence of the Bible. First, in history. With Christ in their hearts and the Old Testament in their hands, the plain men of the early Church drove into the discard the culture of the mightiest empire the world had ever seen and started history moving in a new channel. Centuries later Luther, though a Christian and a monk, found a Latin Bible—the first Bible he had ever seen—in the library at Erfurt. When he read it, well—. One his-

torian has said, "When Luther started studying the New Testament it made him a new man, and in consequence he made a new world."

Important chapters of world history are being written before our eyes today, and the Bible is in the heart of them. Its teachings draw the line between communism and democracy. They undergird the work that General MacArthur has undertaken in Japan. They underlie the issues that throb in the life of India and of China.

Other books? To be sure, some of them plough deeply into history for weal or woe—Blackstone, Karl Marx, Plato, Kant. Most books, however, float briefly and sometimes impressively on the surface of things, then sink and are forgotten. The Bible continues to guide the affairs of men, no matter how those affairs may deepen, expand and interlock.

Consider the Bible's influence on world culture. No one can successfully refute the assertion that where the Bible is best known, civilization has risen to its highest levels. In every aspect of life the Bible leads. In law, the Ten Commandments, if obeyed, would make a paradise on earth. In music, no strains lift us to our feet but Handel's Messiah. Shakespeare draws on the Bible so continuously that we can scarcely tell which we are quoting. The Twenty-third Psalm is the world's most beautiful poem; the Book of Ruth its tenderest love story; Job the tragedy supreme; I Corinthians: 13 the matchless pen-portrait of human courtesy. Who could say more in 321 words than did Jesus in the story of the Prodigal, or who in a thousand sermons more than he did in the 111 short verses of the Sermon on the Mount?

Ah, there is the secret of the Bible. Men wrote it, yes; but they wrote under the inspiration of God's Spirit. The New Testament, which has carried the Bible to the world, was written largely by men whose unspeakable privilege it was to be comrades of the Son of God. Plain men of the field and market place they were, but their testimony could be nothing less, when written down, than the Miracle of Literature.

Old Fine Gold in California

*The Story of the beginning of Bible Society work in the Days of the Fortyniners—
both historical and prophetic*

BY FREDERICK W. CROPP

ON October 30, 1949 several thousand people thronged old Portsmouth Square in San Francisco to recognize the centennial of the coming of the Scriptures to California.

The Bible had been there before 1849, of course. Indeed, in Golden Gate Park there is a monument on the spot where in 1579 Sir Francis Drake's chaplain led his men in worship—the first service where the Scriptures were read on the American mainland.

With the expansion of the United States and the discovery of gold, men thronged to the San Francisco area from every corner of the earth.

And where men go, the Bible goes.

At the annual meeting of the American Bible Society in May 1849 the discovery of gold and the tide of immigration spelled out the commission "Send the Bible to California!"

Consequently, on August 16, 1849 Frederick Buel, a licentiate minister of the Congregational Church, sailed on "The Empire City" from New York, "well recommended to all the friends of the Bible in that part (California) of our extending country." He crossed the Isthmus of Panama, took another vessel on the West Coast and sailed into San Francisco Bay in a flooding storm on October 8.

The Bibles and New Testaments, meanwhile, had been shipped in the hold of "The Far West." While awaiting their arrival, Mr. Buel was not idle. He assembled the Protestant leaders of the small village (200 inhabitants) of San Francisco, and founded, on October 29, 1849, in the name of the parent Society,

the San Francisco Bible Society, which later became the California Bible Society.

In reporting this meeting Mr. Buel wrote to the American Bible Society the next day:

I stated the object desired to be accomplished by the parent Society in sending me to this country, and a nearer view of this place and region has confirmed the opinion that on these shores is speedily to arise a powerful commonwealth, and that San Francisco is to be the center of a vast influence which shall extend hence far and wide over the Pacific and reach to remote quarters of the globe.

The general tone of feeling at the meeting indicated that this community, as there represented, were aroused to the importance of placing the Bible at the very foundation of their institutions. I have no doubt I shall have those who will aid me in any attempt to circulate the Bible in California by their influence, labor and means. I have in view at present to proceed as soon as may be to Sacramento City, when the miners leave the river and take leave for the mines, with what Bibles I can collect here, and supply them to those proceeding to the mines; and if Providence opens the way, form there also a Society.

Thus far I have been assisted to accomplish all that I could have expected. I believe the Society which has been here formed will be active in the work of circulating the Bible, and under these auspices I shall find work to do. They who distribute the Bible here will sow by the side of all waters, and may God add his blessing to the circulation of His own Word!

A reading of the century-old records makes clear three things.

First of all, the need for Scriptures then and now

At the Portsmouth Square Centennial Celebration on October 30, 1949, eight racial groups, each in native costume, repeated the great promise, John 3:16, in their native tongues, the English being given last





Mayor Elmer E. Robinson of San Francisco brings his city's greetings at Portsmouth Square

Those in charge in California through the century

Rev. Frederick Buel	1849-1873
Rev. John Thompson, D.D.	1873-1906
Rev. George Miller, D.D.	1907-1908
Rev. A. Wesley Mell	1908-1934
Rev. Ralph W. Bayless, D.D.	1934-

the gold was not given to the Emperor of Russia. The Hudson Bay Company, that shrewd collection of merchants, has also visited our coasts and trod over the soil where the gold was concealed, but God did not give it to add splendor to the British Crown. Our own troops have passed over the same tract of country; they have examined the stones and plants of California, but they did not discover the gold. But at a peculiar juncture, when by the providence of God it was ready, when there was an organized State there to protect the rights acquired, the gold came to light; before the surveyors of this country had been throughout the length and breadth of the land, it was discovered. The result was that a door was opened for all the nations of the earth; and now there are gathered in our streets representatives from every country. They come from the East and from the West, from the North and from the South; they come from Europe, from India, from distant China and from the islands of the sea. No such collection, probably, has ever been on earth since the day of Pentecost. We have not the voice of an inspired Apostle to preach to the assembled nations and tell them of the wonderful works of God; but we have that which can be read—the Word of God in many tongues. The voice of the preacher may reach the ear; it may be forgotten; but we have, by the power of the press, the printed page carried to the home, to be read in the various languages spoken in California.

tems from the same basic need—man's inability to find guidance elsewhere. As though it were written after scanning today's headlines comes the paragraph from the enabling act of the Society which sent Mr. Buel to California a hundred years ago:

The world has been startled during the last year by the clash of opinions, the strife of philosophies and the thunder of opposing arms; meanwhile, He who causes the wrath of man to praise Him has broken down walls of despotism and superstition and prepared the way for the entrance of the living Word. And shame to that Christian who will fold himself in idle indifference while the moral world is rocked to its very center and millions are pouring forth the plaintive petition, "Give us light or we die!"

Then there was in California a hundred years ago a sense of the supreme importance of seizing a unique opportunity for Scripture distribution—an opportunity, as it appeared, prepared by Providence for that generation.

Mr. Buel, in speaking later of the fact that "the American patriot is worthy to carry the Bible to the end of the world," told the members of the American Bible Society:

I should point to California as an evidence that God has thought us worthy to be entrusted to scatter the Bible to the ends of the earth. California has been reserved in the providence of God for this nation, for this Christian people, for this Protestant country. The gold has been hid in its hills for ages and reserved to be made known at this time. The Franciscan priests centuries ago established their missions on those coasts, but the gold was not given to them. The ships of the Russians have come down to trade in California, have gone up our rivers and visited our ports, but

Centennial Program

2:30 P.M.

CONCERT TWELFTH NAVAL DISTRICT BAND
Naval Training Station, Treasure Island, Calif.
Chief Musician Robert E. Birdsong, *Director*

3:00 P.M.

MR. ARNOLD GRUNIGEN, JR., Presiding
Chairman, Christian Business Men's Committee International

HYMN "Faith of Our Fathers"

INVOCATION THE VERY REV. BERNARD N. LOVGREN
Dean, Grace Cathedral

SCRIPTURE The Nineteenth Psalm
DR. MORRIS GOLDSTEIN
Rabbi, Temple Sherith Israel

ANTHEM "Laudamus" *Prothero*
Centennial Chorus, Waldemar Jacobsen, *Director*
Emily Bates, *Organist*

EACH IN HIS OWN TONGUE John Three-Sixteen
DR. RALPH W. BAYLESS, DR. HARRY C. ROGERS
AND RACIAL GROUPS
Chinese, Greek, Filipino, Italian, Japanese,
Korean, Russian, Spanish

CENTENNIAL GREETINGS THE HONORABLE ELMER E. ROBINSON
Mayor of San Francisco
THE HONORABLE JOSEPH R. KNOWLAND
Chairman, California Centennials Commission
DR. FREDERICK W. CROPP, NEW YORK CITY
General Secretary, American Bible Society

ANTHEM "Go Not Far From Me, O God" *Zingarelli*
ADDRESS "Faith for the Next Hundred Years"
THE REV. DONALD H. TIPPETT, D.D.
Bishop, San Francisco Area, The Methodist Church

HYMN "Rise Up, O Men of God"

BENEDICTION DR. F. D. HAYNES
Pastor, Third Baptist Church

As the program of the centennial celebration advanced, it became apparent that it was more than a recital of past glories. In all the addresses there was the prophetic note. This, too, was an echo of a hundred years ago. In the rolling phraseology of that day a Dr. Durbin of Philadelphia said of the California opportunity of 1849:

I see the hand of God; and I am sure that for some great purpose He has laid the foundations of a mighty empire on the shores of the Pacific. That new republic is peopled by a race of men with strong hearts and hands, with nerves of iron and sinews of steel. Long after the lust of gold has ceased to operate, the institutions now arising there will be telling on the destinies of the world.

Today, after a hundred years, as the Bible Society faces its worldwide work the California story points the way.

One of our contemporaries has said that we are frustrated because we cannot handle the vast and complicated sphere on which we live. What we greatly need, he says, is "small and available handles to large and difficult problems."

The Bibles which we translate, publish and distribute are, indeed, such "small and available handles." In the Far West of 1849 or in the complications of the East and West of 1950, the Word of God is one of the forces which concerned Christians offer to the peoples of the world.

Shifting Yokes in Mexico

Back of this Story lies a visit last year in which the writer observed at first hand how eagerly the people of Mexico receive the Word

BY PAUL A. COLLYER

SHE stood in the busy market place of Mexico City, reading to the crowd about her. Though she was reading, her eyes were closed. Her eyes had been closed for over forty years; yet during all these years she had been reading to the crowds. With her fingers she drew from the pages the story of God's redeeming love for all men. Señorita Rosilla was reading the Gospel of John in Spanish Braille. The crowd was listening intently. Attracted by one who could read without seeing, the passers-by remained to hear the captivating story. Some were so impressed that they bought a Gospel, a New Testament or a Bible. The seed was sown; only time would tell what harvest of Christian faith and life might be garnered.



The sightless señorita holds the crowd with her reading

were elsewhere. Some were too busy buying and selling food, clothing and trinkets to listen to a Bible colporteur. But a few did listen. The words they heard spoke to their deepest hunger. Could this be a pearl of great price? Regardless of the cost, they must have one of these Books. They were amazed to discover that the price was so low that they could afford to buy immediately.

So it goes with the colporteur in Mexico. Where they are received, they are received with gladness. Where they are rejected, they are often rejected with scorn. Too often they are persecuted; at times their lives are endangered; three colporteurs have been killed by fanatics in Mexico. But in the face of constant ridicule and danger, the twenty-four colporteurs serving the American Bible Society in Mexico continue their work of sowing the seed.

It would be almost impossible to discover each person whose life has been changed because one of these missionary Scriptures has been given or sold to him. It is easy, however, to find in almost every evangelical congregation some who have accepted Christ as their Saviour because "the man with the Book" has come to them.

A group from the First Presbyterian Church of Mexico City bears its witness and distributes Gospels in a market place



In another part of the market place Sr. Ibañez and Sr. Dorante were going from person to person, giving their word of testimony and offering the Word of Life in which their testimony had had its origin. Many persons refused to listen. They had been warned against "heretics" who were selling Bibles. Some listened, but refused to buy or even to accept a free copy of a Gospel. Their interests

The evangelical Church is growing stronger in Mexico every day. This growth and strength is largely due to the wide circulation of the Scriptures. The distribution is carried forward not alone by full-time colporteurs. Many churches have groups of laymen and laywomen who spend much of their spare time in house-to-house visitation, selling and giving away the Scriptures. Every Sunday afternoon a group from the First Presbyterian Church in Mexico City go to the market places for street meetings. The Scriptures are always distributed to the crowds.



"So extensive . . . that a colporteur can visit . . . only once in several years"

The zeal with which these lay people seek to distribute the Scriptures is testimony to the power of the Gospel in their own lives. Recognizing their own indebtedness to the reading of God's Word, they are anxious that their fellow countrymen should have Bibles.

Scripture distribution is not confined to the large cities. Colporteurs and volunteer workers are busy in the sparsely settled remote areas. So extensive are some of these areas that a colporteur can visit some communities only once in several years. It is seven years since a trip was made through the jungle area of Quintana Roo in Yucatan. But a two months' expedition through this region was planned for 1949. When the report of the experiences of the two colporteurs from Chiapas and Merida, who were to make the journey, is received, it will probably be printed in the *Bible Society Record*. It will, no doubt, be a story of great adventure. Similar journeys are made from time to time through the States of Chihuahua and Sonora and the Federal district of Baja California.

One of the great problems facing the colporteur in the remote areas is that he is constantly meeting people who cannot read. The printed Word is of little value to these people. The Bible Society does not have the responsibility for teaching people to read. The mission schools and churches must perform that task. But the Bible Society must be, and is, vitally interested in any literacy effort that will result in the ability to read God's Word. In trying to do its part the Mexico Agency organized a group of pastors and missionaries who carefully searched the Bible for passages that contained simple words and easy grammatical constructions. The original text of the Scriptures was not changed. These passages were printed as graded reading sheets. A teacher starting with the easiest passage could lead the student sheet by sheet through the series. Having mastered the series, the student should be able to read his New Testament alone. Thirty thousand copies of the series were published and are now being used throughout Mexico. Teaching from the Scriptures gives opportunity for personal testimony. The Scriptures are selected not alone for ease in reading, but also for their usefulness in evangel-

ism, and will themselves be God's instruments for leading many new literates to Christ.

In Mexico are many Indian tribes. Many of the Indians are illiterate. For most of them, until recently, no part of the Scriptures was available in their native language. But now a group of missionaries is translating the Gospels and other books into these Indian dialects. As soon as a translation is approved by Dr. Nida, the Society's Secretary for Translations, the Bible Society publishes the book and makes it available to the missionaries and natives.

Many people wonder why so many people in Mexico have heretofore not had the Bible in their own language, why there are so many who cannot read, why so many people do not possess or have not heard of the Bible. The answer is plain. The Bible has been withheld from the Mexicans. But no authoritarian Church can continue to hold a nation which has the Bible, for the reading of God's Word sets men free from the yoke of such bondage. Not until evangelical missionaries and the Bible Society started work in Mexico about seventy-five years ago, was there any effort made to give the Word of God to the people. Even now the work of spreading the Gospel is hindered on every side. But in spite of opposition, persecution and hatred, the Bible Society workers, in cooperation with all the evangelical forces in Mexico, are seeking to break the yoke of slavery that, yoked to Christ, Mexico may be free. Every available resource is being used to spread the Gospel. If the people of America would make more resources available, an even greater work could be done.



"He hath made every thing beautiful in his time" is the verse in French that these children are adorning with leaves and branches, to be used as a wall hanging in a worship center. The picture was taken at Le Chambours-Lignon, France, where last summer two young American teachers, Eleanor Parker and Mary Meeker, the latter the daughter of one of The American Bible Society's Board of Managers, spent several weeks of Christian service, demonstrating American Sunday-school and Vacation Bible School methods. For their work the Bible Society supplied 300 copies of the Gospels of Matthew, Luke and John in French. The Gospels were most welcome, as the shortage of Scriptures in France is grievous. Beautiful France, which somehow has always seemed to be the loser, whether on the winning side of the war or not, is filled with children who never have seen a Bible in their lives.

Since the close of the war the American Bible Society has supplied to the French people 18,009 Bibles, 81,846 Testaments and 439,957 Gospel portions, a total of 539,790 Scriptures at a total cost of over \$50,000. There is much, very, very much yet to be done.

With the Bible Van to Chinese East Turkestan

A condensation of the report of a trip made by the Society's Agent at Lanchow in Kansu Province, up over the roof of the world into a vast, seldom-traveled region filled with hungry people of many races and religions

BY A. W. MARTHINSON

THE letter from Mr. Fox Holmes, the British Consul General in Sinkiang Province, was the deciding factor. I had long wanted to go with a load of Scriptures up into the far Northwest and now I knew I must. Mr. Holmes reported that the need for



A Chinese mountain chief

Scriptures among the people was so great that many of the Christians had been learning chapter after chapter by heart, because there were no Bibles to be had in the whole province. He also wrote that the churches were in great need of Russian Bibles. So, several shipments of Scriptures having arrived from Shanghai, I loaded the Bible Van. There were Bibles and Testaments in Chinese and in English, and Gospel portions in Qazaq, Turki, Mongol, Tibetan and Russian.

We left Lanchow in early May. Consul General Holmes, who is also a missionary of the China Inland Mission, happened to be in Lanchow and accompanied me as far as Tihua, where he lives and where his home is almost the only mission station, if it may be so called, in the vast Province of Sinkiang.

We began stopping at all the towns along the way, leaving Scriptures for the mission workers, where there were any, and with the churches. In Wuwei we found the little church in the midst of a revival, which was quite the reverse of the situation elsewhere in the region. We were able to supply them with all the Scriptures they needed. You can imagine how that cheered them, for never before had a Bible Soci-

ety Secretary visited them with a supply of Scriptures.

Later we stopped at a town whose name means "The Spring of Wine." It is a walled city located near a great oasis. The missionaries there were facing many difficulties but the little chapel was crowded the Sunday of our visit.

Our journey then took us for many weary miles through the Gobi Desert, where we encountered one frightful sandstorm, and finally came to the Great Wall of China, the farthest outpost of the old Chinese Empire. Farther on, past the town of Anzi, we entered wild country where the road became narrow and hazardous. The Qazaks in this region often descend from the mountains and loot the trucks as they pass through the narrow gorges.

At the first village over the border of Sinkiang we went into a restaurant to wash up and have a meal. At one large table was a group of soldiers. I gave them some literature and explained to them briefly what the Gospel of Christ was. I happened to mention that I spoke Mongol. Nine of the soldiers shouted in unison that they were Mongols and were elated to meet someone who could converse with them in their native tongue. I tried to tell them the Good Story, and they seemed so open and thirsty to learn more. There is almost no mission work being done in the region where these Mongol soldiers said they came from. Who knows what the Scriptures I left with them may do?

Farther on we came to a vast area whose water supply is through underground channels, a strange contradiction in the midst of the forbidding Gobi Desert. Here live Chinese Moslems and groups of other minorities which include Manchus, Mongols, Turks, Kirghiz, Qazaks and Russians.

The city of Hami has two Christian churches, at both of which we left Scriptures. A group from Shantung Province who call themselves "The Team of Christian Workers" are doing a good piece of work in the region. Through them the Word of God is being proclaimed over a large area. I noticed a rich spirit of prayer in the group. They had all their meals together, sang their hymns with real fervor and put in long days of faithful ministry. Their very faces shone with the joy each had in his particular part of the work.

From Hami our road took us over "The Heavenly Mountains," reaching an altitude at one place of 22,000 feet. Then we entered the hottest part of our journey, which was through the Turfan Depression,

which is about 1,000 feet below sea level. The winds that swept through it were like blasts from an oven. The city of Turfan itself is filled with zealous Moslems. There is no mission work there, but we left some Gospel portions in willing hands, and I found one Chinese soldier who was happy to have a New Testament.

It was a week after we left Lanchow before we reached Tihua. We had traveled 1,235 miles. About twenty miles out from Tihua Mr. Holmes' wife and children came out to meet us. Later we met Mr. Paxstone, the American consul, and his wife.

We had a week's rest in Tihua and rejoiced in the work that was going on in the various churches there. How overjoyed they were to be able to stock up on Scriptures! The pastor of one of the larger churches there, Mr. Li Kai Whan, has also worked for many years in the post office there. He acted as spokesman in thanking us for coming through with Scriptures.

On our way back to Lanchow, as we were driving toward the border of Sinkiang, we found by the roadside a large flower, vivid red. My thoughts went again to the 35th chapter of Isaiah. Here, in one of the most desolate places in the world, a brilliant flower was blooming alone; and because of this

flower the whole place was changed. For the moment the gray, forbidding desert was forgotten, and the richly colored blossom commanded our whole attention. We had been on a long journey which took us



A Mongol evangelist witnesses for Christ to his fellow countrymen

through many villages. Here and there we had met Christians who were like this flower, embroidering the desert because the Lord had made of them new creatures. God grant that His Word in abundant supply shall soon be placed in the hands of these millions whose hearts are hungry, over across the top of the world, in the heart of Asia.

Russians Love the Bible, Too

Besides the Displaced Persons of whom we hear so much, there is in Europe an increasing number of refugees and escapees for whom no government takes any responsibility. They are hungry in body and in soul.

Here is a way we can help them

BY FRANCIS C. STIFLER

SINCE 1947 the American Bible Society has been unable to ship Bibles to Russia, although before the close of that year there had been shipped in two different consignments a total of 10,000 Bibles, 10,000 Testaments, 200,000 Portions and 1,500 Greek Testaments for the theological students in the twenty-two seminaries that are reported as open and operating.

In spite of this fast-closed door, however, the Society does not intend to be found unprepared when the day again comes to supply the people of Russia, millions of whom are believing Christians who long for Bibles of their own. It has on hand a large stock of Russian Scriptures. During the last two years the Society has distributed thousands of these Scriptures to Russian-speaking people living in liberated areas.

As a result of a letter offering Scriptures in a Paris Russian-language newspaper, the Refugee Service in Belgium of the World Council of Churches received many touching letters, a few of which are given here.

Four of the letters quoted are from Austria. One man writes:

I am writing you on the advice of a Serbian priest. Would you not be able to send us for the local Russian

colony a couple of Bibles and New Testaments, also some booklets explaining religious questions? I am working in a hospital and the patients are much interested in the problem of faith. Unfortunately, there is not a single Bible here. In view of the approaching Christmas those books would be precious indeed.

A Serbian Orthodox priest writes:

Your name and address was given me by my former professor, Mr. B. I should be most grateful for a copy of the Russian Bible. Last year I left my homeland with only one book in my pocket—a Serbian New Testament. As I greatly need the whole Bible, please send me one.

A third is a note of thanks for copies already received:

Very many thanks for the Bibles, which reached me today, together with your letter . . . Many aged Russians have come to this camp who are in need of spiritual food. Please send me various spiritual books in the Russian language.

Another letter of gratitude bears testimony to the redemptive power of the Word of God. The recipient writes:

We are hastening to express to you our profound, heartfelt gratitude for the Scriptures you sent us . . . These books we read with much attention and interest in our group.

Then we pass them on to others in our neighborhood who are refugees like ourselves. Thus your kind gift finds here a ready soil. Then I wish to add from my own experience and from that of others that, having read these precious books, people are becoming more serious; they begin to think more deeply and abandon bad customs. They call more often upon the name of God and His only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave His life for the sins of the world and for us sinners. Thank you once more very warmly. May the Lord keep and bless you in your labors!

From France comes this letter with its childlike response to the longing of an empty heart.

I am a reader of your article in the Paris Russian newspaper . . . I am an old emigrant living in France since 1920 on a lonely isolated farm. There is no church in the neighborhood. I have a wife and two children who must also learn the things of God. Please send me a Bible.

With a sense of pressing urgency another writes from the United States Zone in Germany:

I am writing from a Russian Refugee Camp. Please send me Bibles, New Testaments and Gospel tracts in the

Russian language. The amount may be great or small, send us as much as you possibly can.

The plight of these displaced Russians revealed in their letters is only a symptom of the desperate need among people of various nations, now eking out a hopeless existence in many parts of Europe.

Many millions of Americans are heartily responding to the physical needs of these hapless persons. To the readers of the *Bible Society Record* is offered the equally important privilege, unrealized by even thousands of America's church members, of supplying the Word of Life for the hungry souls of these same people.

It is the American Bible Society's exquisite privilege to supply its Scriptures in all the languages needed, through the many doors that are opened to these suffering people. The supply of these books is limited only by the ability of the Society to publish and transport them. Here is where *Record* readers may play their part by their gifts to the Society.

The Bible at Kentucky Carnivals

BY G. B. CAMERON

Miss Evelyn Adams is a self-supporting missionary laboring in Harlan, Kentucky. This is the county seat of what is perhaps one of the most needy counties in the whole of Kentucky.

The principal occupation of Harlan County is coal mining, with all its attendant hazards. Perhaps because of these hazards miners and their families spend their leisure and their hard-earned funds at carnivals and the like. Hence the church has not succeeded too well in reaching the people.

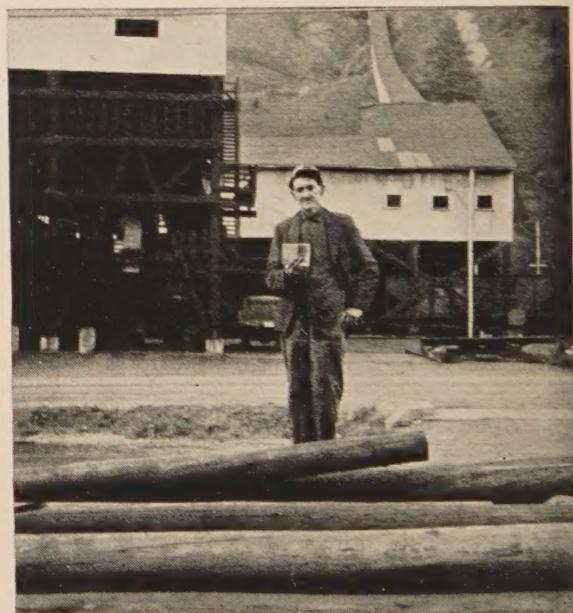
Miss Adams has discovered that one way of reaching these unchurched people is to bring to them in printed form the message of the Church and of the Christ. Not long ago she conceived the plan of distributing the Gospel of John through the coal operators themselves. She wrote each one; then, to clinch the matter, telephoned them, asking that they consent to receive a quantity of the Gospels and offer them for free distribution in the commissaries where the miners' families bought their supplies. She succeeded beyond her expectations and distributed 5,000 copies of the Gospel in this manner.

Not content with this more conventional method, she expanded her operation by visiting the personnel in the carnival booths. She visited each carnival as it set up its tents, and left copies of the New Testament at all of them. She sent to the Society's Cincinnati Office accounts of the wide interest shown and of actual conversions to Christ resulting from these personal and broader methods of Scripture distribution.

Miss Adams' income is derived from friends who believe in her work, and not infrequently she is able

to pay the full cost of her Scripture needs. But when conducting a larger distribution she has asked the Society for help, which is always gladly given.

Such service represents the Bible Society's work in its purest form—to get the Word of God effectively into the hands of people who likely would never get it otherwise. Right here in our own land there are millions of such people. Many of them will never be reached unless more Miss Adamses devote their consecrated services to the task.



A Harlan County (Ky.) miner proudly displays his Gospel portion

Reason Enough for Thanks

The Shortage of Bibles continues in Germany in spite of the increasing local production made possible through the shipments of machinery and paper by the American Bible Society.

The following comes from Chaplain John H. Jones in Berlin

WE recently received a large shipment of Bibles and New Testaments in German which we have been distributing here in Berlin. I can state without exaggeration that this is the greatest and most appreciated help the German pastors have ever been given; although, compared with the number of population of this city, it has been very little.

I enclose a letter of thanks which is also an account of the distribution of those boxes. The books went to the Free Churches of Berlin.

We hope and pray that we will soon receive further shipments which will help to carry on the fight for Him in this most important city.

It was on March 28, 1947 that I wrote my first letter of thanks to you for a big load of Bibles and Testaments you had so kindly sent me for distribution among the members of our German-American Church at Lichterfelde, Berlin.

Now here is another fine occasion to express my greatest appreciation and thanks for your wonderful shipment of German New Testaments, which I have just received through the kind mediation of Chaplain John H. Jones.

Chaplain Jones was so kind as to give a message to our German-American Church on a recent Sunday. This congregation continues the ecumenical worship services every Sunday afternoon at Dorfkirche on Hindenburgdamm, Lichterfelde, Berlin. It consists of about 300 members in all, but only about 220 people can be accommodated in this little 600-year-old chapel. Since these people are all Germans, their joy and thankfulness was especially great when Chaplain Jones distributed to every one of them a copy of the New Testament. The need for these is very great indeed, as most of the families lost their property during the raids and the street fighting in Berlin.

In addition to this first distribution, Chaplain Jones was good enough to leave five more boxes, with about 40 New Testaments each, in the vestry of our chapel, where other German pastors who are conducting services in this same chapel saw them. They asked me for these Testaments, which they urgently need for their Bible classes, Sunday schools and for their candidates for confirmation. Of course, I gladly distributed them.

All these pastors, our congregation members, and myself as the interpreter and executive secretary of the German-American Church of Berlin want to express our heartfelt thanks for your generous shipment of German New Testaments. We consider it a fine proof of your Christian charity and spirit to spend your money for those precious books. It is a fine investment which returns rich blessings. Our people are seeking God, as one of them wrote me recently, and these New Testaments will help them to find Him, I am sure. Hundreds of letters of thanks which I receive every week convince me that their understanding of the Bible grows deeper and that their lives have already been transformed by our worship services. All of these people have minor or mostly greater burdens, sorrows and troubles. They are starving and often freezing, and fighting

a hard fight to live through this hard period of time. But your help and care brightens their hard days and cheers them up. This is reason enough to be very, very thankful to all of you.



These pictures were taken in a jail. The jail is in the Philippines. The full story of the wonderful work in the Pangasinan Provincial Jail, Lingayen, Philippine Islands appeared in the July 1949 issue. Here we see the prisoners, scores of whom have received baptism during their detention, awaiting the distribution of the sacred elements at a Holy Thursday Communion Service last April.

The Society's Philippines Agency has supplied these men with Bibles and Testaments in the Pangasinan and Ilocano dialects, two of the eight Filipino languages in which the American Bible Society has published the whole Bible since the United States took over the Islands forty-one years ago.

In the front of the group in the lower picture are seven baptismal candidates, each holding his Testament. At the right, holding the sign, is lay preacher Emilio Lapitan, a prisoner himself, who has been the main Christian leader in the jail. Standing in the rear at the right is Mrs. J. W. Moore, missionary; and to her right, with collar and tie, Rev. Francisco Banzon, pastor of the Lingayen Methodist Church.



The Bible and the Bomb

WE quote with the permission of *Travel* magazine for September 1949 from their story about Oak Ridge, Tennessee, "Cradle of the Atom Bomb," the following paragraph which reveals how America's faith in the Scriptures persists:

society and a little-theater group, with a full-time paid director. Oak Ridge also has a very fine bookstore, which sells almost 40,000 books a year. The largest single group of books sold are Bibles, books on the Bible and semi-traditional religious books. Even though many outsiders think that



Until its own building is built, the Baptist Church in Oak Ridge uses the greater part of the high-school building, only a small part of which appears here. The church's educational director maintains close contact with the high-school students

Although Oak Ridge is not a community of esthetes or great creative artists, it is certainly not a cultural desert. There is a symphony orchestra, and concerts are also given regularly by visiting orchestras and opera companies. A group meets weekly to listen to classical records, and painting classes meet several times a week. There is also a film

the things around which most thought in Oak Ridge revolves are quadratic equations and nuclear physics, the most important intellectual force is the Baptist Church. Much of the city's social life also revolves around the Baptist Church, there being several times as many Baptists as members of any other denominational group.

The Bible Spoke at Injun Jim

BY C. H. CHARLTON

INJUN JIM on the Feather River Highway is the home of the dam-construction workers. Last Sunday as I arrived early, hoping to have a conference with the Sunday-school workers, a crowd of fifteen or twenty very happy adults came to me with these words: "Meet our new brother in the Lord!" Then they told me how they had been praying for his conversion and how the Christian men on the job had tried to influence him to at least let his children come to Sunday school. Here is what this new convert told me:

My wife was a Christian when we were married, but I have led her down and down into sin. I had no use for her Saviour nor for the Bible that she wanted to read. Years have gone by. Two nights ago I took up her Bible and began to read it. The Lord got hold of me, and I could not put it down. I read on and on, and then I saw myself as I was in His sight—wretched, filthy and vile. As I read and prayed I found forgiveness and cleansing. I have been

so foul-mouthed that I could not speak without swearing but I worked all day yesterday without swearing or even being tempted. How I praise Him!

His children were with him and he earnestly asked for prayer for his wife, who refused to come. We listened with praise and thanksgiving, for in this wild, rocky canyon another soul had been born again. The Sunday school was founded by the American Sunday School Union about a year ago, and to date has reported twenty-nine converts.

The February BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD promises to be one of the most enlightening and challenging numbers we have ever issued. Why not subscribe now for your pastor, your neighbor, your friend. Subscription \$1.00 a year. Ed.

MEMBERS' FORUM

Annual Membership in the Society is secured through gift of \$5 or more for the carrying on of its work. The Society also provides for Life Membership, Life Directorship and Memorial Membership. Particulars will be sent on request. The editors welcome correspondence from members and devote this page in each issue to that purpose.]

From Fort Worth, Texas:

I enclose a check for \$2 to buy Testaments for Japanese people. This gift is from 7 little 10-yr.-old girls who want to share the Good News with the Japanese.

From Roswell, New Mexico:

The enclosed \$25 is for distribution of Bibles or portions to those who cannot otherwise have copies of the Scriptures. I am an old preacher of the Gospel, now nearly 82, and retired from active pastoral work. My old and sick wife and myself are both deeply interested in the Lord's work. We are making this sacrificial gift cheerfully.

From Hartsville, South Carolina:

Your Daily Bible Readings have been very strengthening to me. It has really made me feel very good and see myself as I really am. I have found joy and am living much nearer to God. Anything that is good I like to share with my friends in Jesus' name.

Will you please send me fifty copies of your reading lists? I am sending the extra money so that it may help you to send the lists to others free.

From Los Angeles, California:

Enclosed find my check for \$25 to help supply the Bibles needed for those who are hungry for the Word of God, while the doors are still open.

I have been saving my half dollars until I would have \$25 in order to buy something for myself, but when I was reading your *Record* I was led to give the money to the work of the Lord instead.

From Narberth, Pennsylvania:

Last evening, after reading through the new issue of the *Record*, I was impressed with the urgent need for more and more Bibles in the world today. Enclosed is a check for \$50 to send Scriptures abroad to wherever you feel the need is greatest. I am indeed glad to be able to contribute to this blessed work that you are doing for the furtherance of God's Kingdom.

From Attica, Indiana:

Here is a check for \$8.25 that my Sunday-school class of 10-year-old girls saved. We want this to

apply to books in Braille for blind children, please. They feel so sorry for blind children that can't see the beautiful world they live in.

From Butler, Pennsylvania:

I am on the eve of my 102nd birthday. I have supported the American Bible Society for the last forty or more years. Enclosed is my check for \$25 to be used by you to supply Scriptures for the world.

From Elyria, Ohio:

A brief mention of your work, with some excerpts from the *Bible Society Record* here in this home for the aged, brought the enclosed response, \$1.10—a "widow's mite"—from a number of widows and others who are glad to express their sympathy in this small way, and to add their prayers as well, for your good work.

From Brooklyn, New York:

Would you kindly see that the enclosed (\$40) helps to benefit General MacArthur's appeal relayed to us by Lowell Thomas' broadcast some time during July '49. I was much impressed by the need and can at the present help in this small way.

From Paola, Kansas:

Enclosed find five dollars. I am sorry I can't send any more. My health is very poorly for some time; got to go to doctor often, and that costs money; and have very small account in bank, and no income at all. Sorry I have to stop sending more cash.

From Newport, Kentucky:

This is the Fortieth Anniversary of my connection with the American Bible Society, so in gratitude to our Triune God and as a love-gift to the American Bible Society, please find a Money Order (\$40) to be used where it is most needed.

From Brewster, Massachusetts:

I had nearly planned to donate the enclosed amount (\$100) to another worthy purpose when a copy of your *Record* impressed me so strongly concerning your Bible work in China, Japan and elsewhere that I am diverting it to your Society, with my hope and prayer that its use may bear fruit.

From Greenwich, Connecticut:

Last year I sent a check for one hundred dollars to the American Bible Society and you sent me a membership card, Ten Thousand Businessmen's Club. I should again this year like to have a part in the great work of the American Bible Society. Enclosed is my check for one hundred dollars, to be used by your Society in whatever place you deem most needful.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Bible Society Record

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution and Use of the Holy Scriptures

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to the

Managing Editor

FRANCIS CARR STIFLER

450 Park Avenue

New York 22, N. Y.



Vol. 95 JANUARY 1950 No. 1

Daily Bible Readings

JANUARY

Day Book	Chapter	Day Book	Chapter
1 Sunday		16 John	4:31-54
Proverbs	3:1-18	17 John	5:1-16
2 Proverbs	3:19-35	18 John	5:17-47
3 Psalms	16	19 Luke	3:1-23
4 Psalms	36	20 Luke	4:1-15
5 Luke	6:20-38	21 Luke	4:16-44
6 Ephesians	3:8-21	22 Sunday	
7 Luke	6:39-49	Luke	5:1-17
8 Sunday		23 Luke	5:18-38
I Corinthians	3	24 Luke	6:1-19
9 Romans	8:1-11	25 Acts	9:1-22
10 Romans	8:12-39	26 Luke	7:1-18
11 Jeremiah	17:5-18	27 Luke	7:19-35
12 John	1:19-34	28 Luke	7:36-50
13 John	1:35-51	29 Sunday	
14 John	2	Isaiah	57:11-21
15 Sunday		30 Isaiah	58:1-12
John	4:1-30	31 Isaiah	61

* *

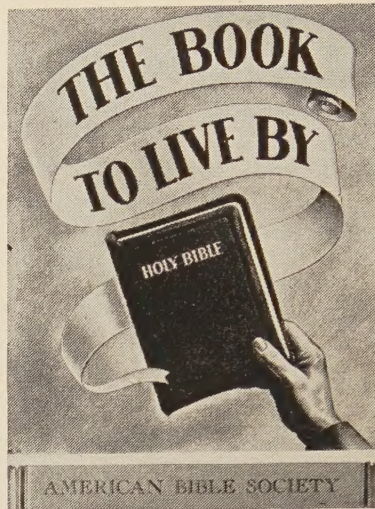
Faith in Our Time

Secretary Stifler will be heard on many stations of the Mutual Broadcasting System on the five Tuesdays of January on the popular morning program "Faith in Our Time." The hour is 10:15 EST. The themes will be: January 3, "What Makes the Bible Popular"; January 10, "When the World Turned a Corner"; January 17, "Japan Four Years After"; January 24, "A Baedeker for Newbyweds"; January 31, "Finding God with Your Fingers."

* *

Worldwide Bible Reading

Never have the Society's efforts to encourage the wider reading of the Bible met with more encouragement than in



the observance of Worldwide Bible Reading, which was in progress as these paragraphs were being written. The theme, supported by the simple, arresting poster, went straight to the hearts of people in many lands. Evidently hundreds who had never seriously read the Bible before did find it "The Book to Live By."

Each year also, the Society receives evidence of the help these offered Scripture readings bring. "A good number of our people look forward to this seasonal and worldwide program of Bible reading. It will render a great service through its promotion," wrote a Presbyterian pastor from Yonkers, N.Y. to the Society. A small print of the poster, enclosed in an attractive plastic frame, came to the Bible Society from a business man, with the following note: "I thought you would like to see how I have made use of your poster. This little picture stands on my desk. It is a reminder to read my Bible daily."

"The bookmarks went like hot cakes," wrote the secretary of a religious organization. "Send me 2,000 more."

The program is not limited to adult participation. Children in U.S. Indian schools in South Dakota, Oklahoma and Arizona asked the Society for a quantity of the Reading lists, that they might continue their annual custom of following the daily readings. This year there was a marked increase in the requests for readings and posters from libraries and public schools.

To accommodate business firms a bookmark printed in a special size, to be enclosed in monthly statements, was prepared. Many calls were received for these.

The radio coverage was never so wide. Not only did scores of commercial programs, including some of the nation's most popular, use the little announce-

ments provided by the Society urging regular Bible reading, and in many cases offering the bookmark Reading lists; but hundreds of stations used the two fifteen minute programs provided by transcription by the Society, one of them presenting a conversation between Mr. James Kraft, chairman of the Board of Kraft Cheese Company and a Vice President of the American Bible Society, and Secretary Claypool, who is the director of the annual Worldwide Bible Reading observance. All four of the major networks carried special programs at Universal Bible Sunday time.

* *

November Meeting of the Board

A meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and thirty-fourth year was held at the Bible House, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, on Thursday, November 18, 1949, at 3:30 p.m., President Dan Burke, LL.D., in the Chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Dr. Harry N. Holmes.

The death of Field Secretary D. Howell on October 15 was reported and a message of sympathy on behalf of the Board was requested to be sent to Mr. Howell.

The Board authorized the production of several Books of the New Testament and some of the Old Testament on new ten-inch Talking Book records for the Blind.

It was reported that the complete Bible in French Braille in 34 volumes and also the Bible in Dutch Braille in 10 volumes had been received for the Society's library.

It was reported that Secretary N. had left for Japan by plane on October 17, arriving in Tokyo on the 19th.

Report of the celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of Bible Society work in California on Reformation Day, October 30, was made by Secretary Cropp.

The poster "The Book to Live By" in various languages, and Bible bookmarks giving the Worldwide Bible Reading from Thanksgiving to Christmas, were presented.

To EDITORS: *The Bible Society Record* invites reprinting of its articles in whole or in part. Its contents are not copyrighted.

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ory, Bible House, Box J, Cristóbal, Canal Zone

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Bible House, 2 Shichome, Ginza, Tokyo

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THROUGH A REMARKABLE PLAN



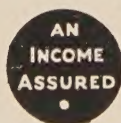
IT costs nothing to send for this little book, *A Gift That Lives*. Yet this moment may be the most rewarding one of your life—starting you on the highroad to happiness and independence.

Thousands of men and women are today enjoying long life, great joy, and complete freedom from money worry through participation in the American Bible Society Annuity Plan.

The Plan is simple. Simply invest your savings or surplus funds in American Bible Society Annuity Agreements. You may start with as little as \$100 and you receive generous returns right from the start. Reinvesting these divi-

dends along with accumulated funds increases your holdings—and you will be astonished how soon you may own a sizable amount!

This Plan, which has been in operation for more than 100 years, offers rich satisfactions. For through it you not only provide for your own future financial security (perhaps of loved ones, too) and so prolong your life; you have the inexpressible joy of knowing that, after you have had the use of your money, it goes to further the work of a vital Christian enterprise which serves all denominations impartially—and which never departs from its sole and original purpose of making the Bible available to all.



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